

## **MEMORANDUM**

September 9, 2008

**TO:** RESIDENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN KA`U

**FROM:** CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN, DIRECTOR  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**SUBJECT:** KA`U COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) SURVEY AND  
INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

I am writing to encourage you to participate actively in preparing the Ka`u Community Development Plan (CDP). This memo briefly introduces the Ka`u CDP and explains how to learn more and how to stay informed. We have also enclosed a flyer about upcoming informational meetings and a survey for providing input.

The General Plan is the County of Hawaii's policy document for the long range comprehensive development of the island of Hawaii. The County established the CDP program in Chapter 15 of the 2005 General Plan to determine communities' priorities for land use, infrastructure, economic development, government services, and natural and cultural resource conservation.

CDPs provide a framework for regional planning that gives residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to actively participate in planning for their communities and implementing those plans. Because CDPs address regulations, incentive measures, and priorities for acquisition, conservation, development, and public infrastructure and facilities, it is critical that CDPs be based on extensive public involvement and input.

The Departments of Planning and Research and Development are partnering to ensure that community residents and others who have a stake in Ka`u are meaningfully involved the CDP process. This will likely include small group "talk story" meetings, surveys, structured interviews, community research groups, regional planning meetings, planning meetings for the population centers, and meetings specific to issues that the community identifies as high priorities.

The Ka`u CDP process is being launched in September 2008 and will likely be completed in 2010. The Ka`u CDP will cover the Judicial District of Ka`u, not including the Volcano Golf and Country Club, which was part of the Puna CDP planning area. The Ka`u CDP planning area includes Wood Valley, Pahala, Punalu`u, Na`alehu, Discovery Harbour, Mark Twain Estates, Waiohinu, South Point, Hawaiian Ocean View Estates, Hawaiian Ranchos, and all of the other subdivisions and agricultural and conservation lands in between.

Each CDP must have a Steering Committee composed of members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the County Council. The members shall be broadly representative of the planning area and

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will work in with the Planning Department and professional consultants to make sure the CDP truly reflects the will of the community. Applications for Steering Committee members will be available by the end of September and will be due in November. The Ka`u CDP Steering Committee will be seated by the incoming Mayor and County Council.

For more information about the Ka`u CDP, please visit the project web site at: [www.hcrc.info/community-planning/community-development-plans/kau](http://www.hcrc.info/community-planning/community-development-plans/kau). The web site includes information about upcoming CDP events, how to stay informed of CDP activities, frequently asked questions, the Ka`u CDP Project Team, the Steering Committee selection process, and much more.

We also encourage you to subscribe to an announcement email list, through which Ka`u CDP updates will be distributed. It is a low-volume (1-2 postings/month) list for announcements from the Ka`u CDP project manager. For more information about the list and to subscribe, go to <https://www.hcrc.info/mailman/listinfo.cgi/kau-cdp-announce>.

County staff will share more information about the Ka`u CDP at three upcoming informational meetings in Pahala, Na`alehu, and Ocean View. See the enclosed flyer for more information about those events.

There are also two opportunities to provide initial input into the CDP:

- Small group “talk story” meetings to discuss the community’s vision for Ka`u, which will be held between October and December 2008. Because talk story meetings build community and typically generate new ideas, we encourage you to attend one. More information about the talk story meetings will soon be available in the “CDP Input” section of the Ka`u CDP web site and will be shared at the informational meetings.
- A survey of community values and vision, which you can complete if you’re unable to attend a talk story meeting. The survey can be completed in the “CDP Input” section of the Ka`u CDP web site or sent to the Planning Department. A copy of the survey is also enclosed.

If you have any questions about the Ka`u CDP, please contact the project manager, Ron Whitmore, in my office at 961-8288 extension 206 or [rwhitmore@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:rwhitmore@co.hawaii.hi.us).

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Enclosures

cc: County Council Members  
Planning Commission  
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Mr. Brad Kurokawa, Deputy Planning Director  
Amy Self, Esq., Corporation Counsel  
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